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*The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending September 6. 1947*

# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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## THE CHEERFUL COCKNEY



The Pearly King of Hampstead, Bert Matthews, seen in his "regal robes," which he wears when collecting for charities.

## RAINING FISH AND FROGS

### *Strange Things From a Watery Sky*

WHEN we talk of it "raining cats and dogs" we are using a figure of speech signifying violent rain; nobody thinks we mean a shower of drenched Persians or Pomeranians. Nevertheless, many strange things have been known to drop from a watery sky.

When holidaymakers in the French Alps dived for cover recently during a heavy shower of scarlet rain they guessed correctly that the unusual deluge was sand whirled over to Europe from the Sahara desert. But when the same phenomenon occurred in The Hague in 1670 it caused a panic. The downpour lasted all night, and when the citizens awoke to find streets and ditches awash with what looked like "blood" they judged it to be an omen of calamities to come.

In 1808 red snow fell in Carniole, Germany, to a depth of over five feet; but usually these freak showers are not heavy, although the colours vary. Some years ago a deluge of "ink" fell in Spain, interrupting a procession and spoiling hundreds of fancy costumes. Inquiries showed that the "ink" was dust from Vesuvius, which was erupting at the time. Then there was the yellow rain which fell in Luxembourg a few years before the war and was found to contain pollen from certain pine and fir trees.

Queerer phenomena than coloured rain and snow, however, have surprised people in these islands at times. Not long ago, Towyn in Wales had a fall of tiny frogs. In July 1945 the district round Cruckmore Peak, in Donegal, Ireland, was deluged with herring fry exactly a century after a downpour of eels had terrified the countryfolk.

A heavy shower of what appeared to be pearls once set a Spanish village agog until the globules were discovered to be merely the eggs of insects and reptiles. Occasionally, however, showers of valuable objects have been recorded.

Real pearls have fallen in Japan and were carried inland from an oyster-bed where shells containing the gems had just been opened. A village near Naples was once presented with oranges during a brief tornado, while lobsters falling on the north-east coast of Scotland a few years ago were found in some instances to be edible.

It would seem that Mother Nature is sometimes in frolicsome mood.

## The Cruise of the Albatross

### *DELVING INTO THE SECRETS OF THE OCEAN BED*

PLOUGHING her way across the Southern Atlantic at the present time is the Albatross, a Swedish motor schooner of 1400 tons which is carrying a team of distinguished Swedish scientists on a fifteen-months' investigation of the deep seas of the world. The Albatross is out to seek knowledge of the deep seas and what lies beneath them, a scientific study which had its beginning on a large scale about three-quarters of a century ago with the famous Challenger Expedition, which lasted three and a half years.

For her long cruise the Albatross has been specially fitted with the latest scientific apparatus; her deck is littered with huge winches and drums of cable, while down below many of her cabins have been converted into laboratories and workshops.

#### Measuring an Echo

One of the many tasks of the expedition will be to make sectional charts of many parts of the deep-sea bed. This work is no longer done by making thousands of soundings by means of a heavy plummet at the end of a cable. During the past ten years an instrument has been developed which measures the time taken for a sound to echo from the sea bed; this time is automatically calculated in terms of distance which is immediately recorded on a moving paper chart. Thus, as the vessel moves along, the exact shape of the sea bed is shown.

Another instrument, specially made for the Albatross Expedition, records by the same means the depth of the sediment at the bottom of the sea which has been deposited there through countless ages.

Examining land beneath the sea will, in fact, form an important part of the expedition's activities, for little is known about it at present. Samples of the sea bed are obtained by means of hollow steel drills, called corers, which are driven into the sea bottom. This is no easy task in very deep water, and many ingenious methods have been used in the past, including the use of high explosives to act as "hammers" on top of the corers.

#### Sea-Bed Samples

Ten years ago a core, or sample of the sea bed, ten feet long was unusual. Now, however, scientists can obtain samples over fifty feet long, and the experts on the Albatross will be able to examine deep-sea sediment and rock strata laid down many millions of years ago. What they discover may very well revolutionise our knowledge of past ages.

The Swedish scientists will also trawl and dredge at depths of several miles. For this work a special cable is required, for when great lengths are used that portion of the cable nearest the ship has to bear the great weight of the wire between it and the trawl. The cable used, therefore, is tapered so that the end nearest the surface may be several times thicker than that at the sea bottom, and specially-designed winches and hoists have to be used.

This voyage of the Albatross recalls the still famous expedition which investigated the deep sea between 1872 and 1876, when Sir Wyville Thomson, Sir John Murray, and their colleagues in the wooden corvette, H M S Challenger, startled the scientific world by demonstrating the existence of unknown forms of life thousands of feet below the surface of the ocean.

Before the Challenger Expedition set out, it was widely believed that life could not exist in that dark realm of the deep sea below about 230 fathoms, which is about as far as light can penetrate. Many scientists insisted, moreover, that the enormous water pressure in the great depths would prevent man from exploring them.

But the men of the Challenger, trawling and dredging at depths of several *thousand* fathoms, brought to the surface numerous strange and fantastic creatures whose existence none had suspected. In addition, these pioneers began a new era of oceanography by making charts of the deep-sea bed which revealed it, not as a flat, featureless plain as many had thought, but as terrain with hills and valleys, mountains and plateaus, as varied as those of the continental land masses.

The mass of information accumulated by the Challenger Expedition took 15 years to prepare for publication, and filled 50 large volumes. One indirect but important result of its work was the formation in 1902 of the International Council for the Investigation of the Sea, by means of which all scientific information about the ocean is now collected, sifted, and then distributed to all those who can make use of it.

Through this Council — a splendid example of what the nations *can* achieve by unselfish co-operation—the findings of the new expedition in the Albatross will be put to practical use. Much has been learned since the days of the Challenger Expedition, but there are still many mysteries to be solved, and the realm of the deep sea remains almost unknown.

The researches of the Albatross Expedition will therefore benefit not only the biologists and the oceanographers and all who seek to interpret the story of the ages, but they may be of vital help to those whose daily work takes them across the surface of the mighty seas, and also to those who daily risk their lives in order that the peoples may be fed.

## *AERIAL NOAH'S ARK*

SO many requests have been made to send animals across the Atlantic that American Overseas Airlines have begun a special "Noah's Ark" airliner service between London and New York. All kinds of animals and birds, from lizards to pet dogs, have been sent. Some of the planes are fitted with horse-boxes into which the horses are lifted by means of mechanical hoists. "We can even accommodate an elephant," says one of the airline officials.

## IN INDIA'S CAPITAL



Looking out on the domed Secretariat Building in New Delhi, capital of the new Dominion of India.

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# THE DESPERATE NEEDS OF EUROPE

GRAVELY as our own country is affected by ceasing for a time to draw on the American Loan, the underlying causes of this drastic step and also its ultimate effects actually concern all the nations, especially those of Western Europe. There are at present being held a number of international conferences which may have great influence upon the future prosperity of them all. It is up to everyone, therefore, to visualise quite clearly how these meetings dovetail into one great reconstruction effort.

In Paris the Conference of 16 States continues to work hard to find out how the European Western States can best help themselves and what sort of American help they will need to supplement their own self-help. This Conference is, of course, directly linked with the Marshall Offer and its results are not likely to be felt before this offer becomes a definite plan, some time in the spring of 1948.

### The Marshall Gap

This means that, at least as far as Britain is concerned, there will probably be a period of a few months—known as the Marshall Gap—when, having decided to forgo the American Loan dollars, we shall find ourselves without sufficient means of buying foodstuffs, machinery, and raw materials in the U S A on the former scale.

Were this to happen we should find ourselves in a very difficult position indeed. It is for this reason that the Government have been making very strenuous efforts to conserve the available supply of dollars, with conferences in Washington seeking out how best to keep Anglo-American trade moving.

There is sitting in Washington yet another Anglo-American Conference, the aim of which is to decide how to get the German Ruhr going. Although little has been heard about it there can be no doubt that these talks are almost as important as those concerned with the Loan. There is also a Conference in London to consider the views of France on the Ruhr problem.

But why should the Ruhr be so important? A short trip through that part of Germany could give an immediate answer. Travelling through this large industrial area we would see an almost continuous landscape of factory chimneys, pitheads, blast furnaces, a maze of roads, railway, and tramway lines—one vast workshop capable of producing coal, steel, machinery, chemicals, and thousands of other goods all Europe is today crying out for. The Ruhr is Germany's and Europe's biggest workshop and could change our Continent into a prosperous area within a short time.

### The Need For Coal

Today, unfortunately, the Ruhr is producing only a fraction of what she could. The single, most important, reason for this is shortage of coal. Without coal there can be no steel or electricity; without steel or electricity there are no machines, bricks, cement, lorries, railway wagons, and thousands of other things needed for the reconstruction of the Continent.

The recovery of Ruhr coal production is therefore of vast importance to us. Once the Ruhr and her industries are started (naturally for peaceful purposes only) Germany can begin to make goods which will help her and her neighbours. With Germany's recovery our expenditure, most of it in dollars on feeding her people, will not be required: The Germans themselves will be able to buy things they need instead of looking to us to provide them with food and other essential goods.

### Ruhr Recovery Vital

The above sketch shows clearly how all these economic talks interlock in the manner of a jig-saw puzzle. If we did not spend dollars on Germany our position during the Marshall Gap would be much easier. But here again we depend on American help. If the US agrees to help us more in the Ruhr it will mean that she will have to supply the Ruhr with all sorts of goods, not only food, but, strange as it may seem, steel (normally produced in the Ruhr in great abundance) to make coal wagons to shift coal, rails, locomotives, and so on. This is a tall order and there are many people in America who will hesitate to supply money towards German recovery unless they are sure how important such aid is. It is for us now to show how vital, not only for Britain, but for the whole of Europe, the recovery of the Ruhr is.

## The Scorched Earth

NATURE is an uncertain bedfellow. Only a few months ago we were having floods, with water, water, everywhere. August saw a drought in Britain which affected plant and animal life considerably. Though many plants die when droughts deny them Nature's food and drink, desert plants are adapted for very high temperatures and long rainless spells. One such plant at least—the manna lichen or *Lecanora esculenta*—knows how to survive the driest season, and is often heated up to 158 degrees Fahrenheit without perishing.

The manna lichen curls up, shrivels, and loses its grip on the rock on which it grows. Then breezes blow it away, not as a dead thing, but very much alive. It lives to thrive somewhere else, providing food for wandering tribes in North Africa.

## *ECHO OF 1745*

MRS HENRIETTA ROSS, of Gorebridge, Scotland, who has just died at the age of 101, was directly connected with the '45 Rebellion, for her mother, who lived to be 90, was well acquainted with many of those who had espoused the cause of the Young Pretender. Up to the time of her death Mrs Ross could recite long extracts from the Psalms and much of Burns and Goldsmith, her favourite poets.

# The Nizam and the New India

AT the time of the handing over of power in India on August 15 last, there were one or two Indian States—lands ruled by their own princes—which had not joined either the Dominion of India or Pakistan.

The most important of these is Hyderabad, in the south of the sub-continent, which is the richest and most populous of all the princes' states.

The ruler of Hyderabad, the Nizam, stated, before August 15, that he wished to be on the best of terms with his new neighbours, the two Dominions, and had started negotiations with them on matters of common concern.

He also said that when the British left India he would become an independent sovereign and that his country would remain within the British Commonwealth.

### The Old Mogul Empire

This means that in the Indian sub-continent there are at least three new independent countries, India, Pakistan, and Hyderabad. Hyderabad has a population of about 16,340,000 and an area of 82,698 square miles, bigger than that of England and Scotland together.

Before the rise of British power in India this part of the country belonged to the old Moslem Mogul Empire. The Mogul (Emperor) in 1713 appointed a distinguished Turcoman soldier to be Nizam-ul-Mulk (Administrator of the State), but this Nizam threw off the control of the Mogul at Delhi and established himself as an independent ruler. He was the founder of the present dynasty in Hyderabad and his descendants ruled in treaty relationships with the British and assisted them during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

### Faithful Ally

One of the Nizam's several titles is "Faithful Ally of the British Government."

Hyderabad has its own currency of gold and silver coins and notes; its rupee is called the Osmania Sicca. Hyderabad also issues stamps for use inside the state. The country has considerable economic wealth. Cotton is its most important crop, and there are six large cotton spinning and weaving mills. Hyderabad has altogether 659 factories producing various kinds of goods. Its coal mines, the most southerly in India, turned out 1,277,154 tons in 1942. Its capital, Hyderabad, is the fourth largest city of India, with a population of some 750,000. At Hyderabad City is the Osmania University, which has about 3132 students. The State maintains its own regular army.

Another Indian State which had not joined either India or Pakistan on August 15 was Kashmir.

Kashmir, in the extreme north, is the largest in area of all these states ruled by Indian princes, but much of it is almost uninhabited. Its population is about 4,022,000 and it is a country of great natural beauty.

Well-wishers of the Indian people will hope that these states will enter into happy relationships with the new Dominions.

# *WORLD NEWS REEL*

**MORE AMERICANS.** The population of the United States is now estimated to be 141,229,000. This is an increase of 9,160,000 since the 1940 census.

The newspaper, British Ally, published in Moscow in Russian and giving British news, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. It has a circulation of 50,000 among Russians.

*The United Europe Movement has now an executive committee and an advisory council in Britain. Chairman of the executive is Mr Winston Churchill.*

**AT HIGH LEVEL.** Early this autumn two high-altitude Mosquito aircraft are to carry out research into gusts of turbulent air found at heights over 25,000 feet—first over Britain and then over Continental capitals. The research is being carried out by British European Airways, in collaboration with the Ministries of Supply and Civil Aviation.

The new cross-Channel steamer, Arromanches, built at Le Havre between 1945 and 1947, recently made her first crossing on the Newhaven-Dieppe route. She has a French crew and can carry 1450 passengers.

*The American Medal of Honour with silver palm was presented recently to Dr H. Roxbee Cox, the British gas-turbine expert, for his war services in the development of turbo-jet and turbine aircraft engines.*

**SAILORS' FRIEND.** An American lady, Mrs Harriet Wilkeson, aged 70, who during the war "mothered" thousands of British sailors stationed at New Jersey, U S, recently arrived in Britain to tour naval bases. In wartime Mrs Wilkeson repaired the sailors' clothes, took them for car rides, and invited them to tea.

Four Canadian scientists who have been flying over the Arctic trying to locate the North Magnetic Pole, have sent reports indicating that the Magnetic Pole may have shifted 200 miles to the north since 1904.

*The territory of the Kachins, a hill people of Burma, has been constituted a semi-independent state by the Burmese Constituent Assembly.*

**PAIN-KILLER.** In America a new dental anaesthetic called Topocaine has been developed for application to the tooth instead of injection into the gum.

New Zealand farmers have been able to manufacture ten per cent more dairy produce for the season that ended in June than for the previous twelve months. This was due to increased summer rainfall.

*Having made important discoveries of fossils of whales and penguins which must be millions of years old, Professor B. J. Marples of Dunedin, New Zealand, is travelling to Britain and the U S to discuss them with other scientists.*

# *HOME NEWS REEL*

**CAR CAGE.** When George, an African monkey, escaped from the London Zoo not long ago, he was caught when he jumped into a stationary car. The door was slammed on him.

At Newmarket the first canine research station of the Veterinary Educational Trust has been established.

*Surplus Government stores and plant sold at 48 regional auction sales during the past year realised £1,053,955. Articles sold ranged from infants' feeding bottles to heavy cranes.*

**PROMPT.** Mr Bertram J. W. Orton of Southampton, in his garden after dark, saw an aircraft in difficulties giving the S O S signal with its lights. He at once telephoned the police, and as a result the airport landing lights at Southampton were switched on, enabling the plane to land safely.

A recent fall of cliff at Kimmerbridge, Dorset, revealed two stone coffins containing two skeletons of the Roman-British period.

*Princess Margaret has been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Highland Light Infantry.*

**NUMBER, PLEASE.** Great Britain now has 6000 telephone exchanges (60 per cent of which are automatic), serving 4,250,000 telephones. In 1923 there were only 16 automatic exchanges.

A Bolton, Lancashire, lady owns a parrot 29 years old which has recently laid its 22nd egg.

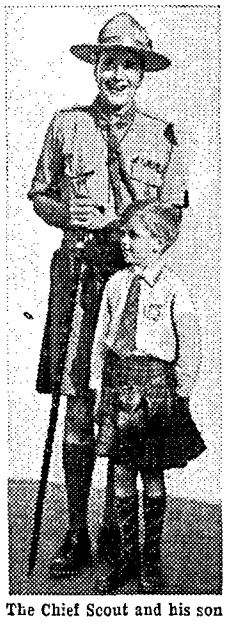
*Two houses built entirely by apprentices were opened at Walsall recently.*

# *YOUTH NEWS REEL*

**BOB-A-JOB.** The Scouts of Keighley are holding a "bob-a-job" week. To raise funds they will tackle any job they are given for a minimum of a shilling a head.

Scouters from all over the world will be present on September 6 at the Gilwell Reunion at Gilwell Park, Chingford. They are all members of the 1st Gilwell Group, which means that they have taken a course at Gilwell and hold the Wood Badge.

*The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, is to visit Jersey and Guernsey in the Channel Islands from September 25 to 28.*



The Chief Scout and his son

**ATHLETIC PRINCE.** Prince Adedoyin of Nigeria who, since coming to study medicine at Belfast has equalled the A A A Championship High Jump (6 feet 4 inches), was formerly a member of the 1st Ijebu Company and one of the best Boys Brigade athletes in Nigeria.

At the end of the recent Scout Jamboree at Moisson, France, the different delegations of Scouts planted their national flags on a huge ball, over 30 feet in diameter, representing the world. After this these Scouts from many lands linked hands and sang Auld Lang Syne

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# England Won the Big Event

AT Dublin Horse Show, one of the biggest and most important shows of its kind in the world, the Aga Khan's Cup was won by the English team.

There were classes for horses and ponies of all kinds, but the big event of Dublin Horse Show was the International Jumping Competition, in which teams from several nations competed for the handsome gold cup presented by the Aga Khan, himself a keen horse-lover and owner. Mr Sean O'Kelly, President of the Irish Free State, was present to watch the jumping and hand the cup to the winning team.

England, Eire, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, and France all entered teams, each consisting of three horses and riders, with one horse as reserve. An interesting point is that each of these teams, with the exception of the English one, was subsidised by its government and had been trained in establishments specially built for the occasion. The English team was Lt-Col A. B. J. Scott, Lt-Col H. M. Nicoll, and Major A. Carr. Their horses were Notar, Pepper Pot, and Lucky Dip, with Continental as reserve.

## *ANTLERS AHEAD*

AS the Western Isle mail-boat, Lochearn, was returning from Barra to Oban not long ago the helmsman suddenly noticed a stag with magnificent antlers swimming in the water just ahead. Putting his helm hard over he narrowly missed the animal, which continued undisturbed its swim from the mainland of Morven to the Island of Mull.

## A Monster in the North Sea

THE tunny season has begun. Tunny fish, which are of the mackerel family, abound in the Mediterranean Sea but are often caught off our coasts, especially in the North Sea off Yorkshire.

The first tunny to be caught there this year was "landed" by the crew of a fishing boat after a considerable tussle. It weighed nearly 300 pounds.

A tunny fish frequently grows to a length of over ten feet, and may weigh half a ton. Only the most expert fishermen can deal with these monsters of the deep. They provide a most valuable food.

## THE MISSING KEYS

MANY thousands of water pipes burst last winter, with disastrous effects; but in one case at least the result was profitable.

A water pipe began leaking at Bond's Hospital, Coventry—almshouses founded by Thomas Bond in 1506 "for as long as the world shall endure"—and when repairs were undertaken some missing keys were discovered which had locked away the secrets contained in some old cupboards and safes at the hospital. When these were opened they were found to contain title deeds and other old documents going back as far as the twelfth century. They are now on exhibition at Coventry's Muniment Room.



*AIRPORT SANDPIT—Youngsters romp in the sandpit at Northolt Airport*

## Reviving German Trade

THOUGH more than half of its buildings were destroyed during the war, the city of Hanover has staged a Trade Fair to show the world that Germany can still produce useful goods of all kinds, and produce them in plenty provided that she can obtain the necessary raw materials. The trade exhibitors have been assured that these will be supplied to carry out any contracts entered into at the fair, if the deal is approved.

One German spokesman said on the opening day of the fair that the German people did not wish to receive food and raw materials from abroad as charity but to be able to pay for them by the products of their own labour; and representatives of the Anglo-American Control have spoken in high praise of this brave venture, undertaken at a time when Germany is so depressed economically.

## *THE MODEL-MAKERS*

THOUGH he is blind and deaf, Mr George Fallowfield made a working model of a double-sculling skiff which was shown at the recent Model Engineer Exhibition held in the New Horticultural Hall, London.

In the competition section of the Exhibition the youngest amateur model-maker was ten, and the oldest 78. There was a record entry of nearly 400 models in this section.

## A FAMOUS CLOCK

THERE has been much speculation as to the precise origin of the famous Astronomical Clock at Hampton Court Palace. The work has been attributed to Nicholas Oursian, also to Nicholas Cratzer, both craftsmen of Henry VIII's day.

At least one point connected with this famous clock, however, has been cleared up beyond doubt. Recently, when experts were cleaning and rehanging the two bells that strike each quarter of an hour, they discovered a faint mark impressed upon the bells. It has proved to be that of William Culverden, who made many church bells in the 16th century. His mark was the letter W and a pigeon, the old English word for which was "culver."



The regilding of the dial of the Astronomical Clock has begun. The clock indicates the hour, the month, the day of the month, the number of days since the beginning of the year, the phases of the moon, and the time of high water at London Bridge.

Visitors to Hampton Court have been more numerous than ever this summer. Lecturers have been guiding parties of visitors round the King's State Apartments.

## 600-Year-Old Classroom

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, Surrey, where seven Saxon kings were crowned, has among its many historical relics a 14th-century chantry, notable as the only one separate from a church.

A chantry was an endowed chapel or part of a church set aside for the chanting of Masses for the founder's soul. Kingston's chantry, built by John Lovekyn, four times Lord Mayor of London, was, together with more than 2000 other chantries and chapels, suppressed under the Chantries Act, 1545; but it was restored to Kingston town by Queen Elizabeth in 1561, to serve as a grammar school.

Long since has the Lovekyn Chapel ceased to be used for that purpose, and during the war served as a Home Guard depot. Now it is to revert to its former use, and will serve as a classroom for junior boys of Kingston Grammar School.

## *JACKDAW FRIEND*

WHEN a London family returned home from Kent after hop-picking last year they left behind a jackdaw they had tamed.

This year they went back to the same farm, and within twelve hours of their return Jackie found them! He is less tame, and "talks" less, but, although he refuses to be caught again, he evidently recognises his old friends, for he spends most of his time hopping round their hut.



*RUHR HARVEST—Gleaners in a field near the Krupps works at Essen.* See Page 2

# Radar Foretells the Weather

SCIENTISTS at the recent meeting of the British Association have described how radar is still seeking new worlds to conquer. It made a modest beginning with the weather by detecting the heavy rainfall areas, and the shape of things to come as revealed by the clouds; and after that to signal thunderstorms, and distinguish between the two types of thunderstorms.

After that radar went in pursuit of the shooting stars or, more scientifically, the meteor showers such as the Perseids or the Andromedids; from the surfaces of the bits and pieces of which the showers are composed, the radio waves are reflected.

More recently radar has attacked, and is attacking, the unsolved problems of the cosmic rays. The cosmic rays are not the bits and pieces of measurable particles like those of the meteor showers, but are bits of invisible electric particles, electrons for choice. A team of workers at Manchester under Dr A. C. B. Lovell have gone so far as to think it possible to detect the influence of reflections from them.

## *ARCHER v GOLFER*

AN unusual match took place the other day over Carnoustie championship golf course when one contestant shot arrows and the other played ordinary golf. The archer won two holes up and one to play. At the last hole the golfer took the bow and reached the green with three arrows, but the archer, now using the golf clubs, was still far from the green in twice the number of shots!

## A West Indian Federation

A CONFERENCE between representatives of the British West Indian Colonies, to discuss proposals for a closer political association between them, is due to be held this month at Montego Bay in Jamaica. The colonies which have agreed to send delegates are Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands. The Bahamas were not willing to send delegates.

It is hoped that as a result of this conference these colonies will no longer continue to be politically separate from one another but will enter into some form of Federation.

Mr Creech Jones, Secretary of State for the Colonies, hopes to be present at the conference.

## FUEL FLASH

WHAT might be called a housewife's dream is on show at the Enterprise Scotland Exhibition in Edinburgh. It is an enormous glistening lump of coal which weighs three tons and measures five feet by four feet.

Mined in a Newbattle colliery, the immense lump required ten men 40 minutes to man-handle it from a lorry into the Exhibition. It forms part of the "Scotland Tomorrow" section, and no doubt, in these days of acute shortage of coal, many a housewife would feel happy at the possession of such a stock from which fuel could be chipped as required.

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# Hopscotch in Berlin



ABOUT 4000 British children are being educated in Germany, sons and daughters of the Occupation Forces and the staff of the Control Commission.

Scattered over the British Zone—which is four-fifths the size of England—are about 70 schools of four grades from Nursery to Secondary. Great difficulties had to be overcome in setting up the British Families Education Service, but the schools are now settling down to a normal routine in their strange surroundings, and overcoming the many problems that beset them amid the shattered towns and cities of Germany.

The British teachers are assisted by some German staff, who are mainly employed as language teachers and nursery helpers. School meals are provided, and sports and recreations are organised just as they are at home. Many of the boys and girls quickly made friends with young German neighbours, and now there is official approval of German children being invited to the schools for social meetings. Each nationality is learning the other's language, and no encouragement is needed for them to "get together."

In the picture above a British girl at one of the Berlin schools is showing German visitors how to play hopscotch.

# EIGHTY YEARS TOGETHER

A VERY rare occasion was celebrated not long ago in the little town of Sainte Marguerite in the Laurentian Highlands of Quebec. It was the 80th anniversary of the wedding of the oldest married couple in all Canada, Mr and Mrs John Jacob Henkel, both over 100 years old; and their grandchildren and friends and neighbours organised a splendid party for them.

As great-grandfather and great-grandmother walked sturdily into the inn where the party was held, a band played the Wedding March and photographers' bulbs flashed to take pictures of these hale and hearty old folk, who were married three weeks after the Canadian colonies became a Confederation.

The guests of honour took their seats behind the huge cake a neighbour had provided, and they were soon surrounded by their granddaughters and great-grandson. For Mr and Mrs Henkel's own children have passed on, but the affection and devotion of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren has compensated the old people for their loss.

Mr Henkel says it was hard work that gave him the good appetite which he has never lost, while his wife complains that nowadays she has to wear glasses for reading!

In their 80 years together they have had their ups and downs. They were married in Brooklyn and came to Montreal when Mr Henkel started a company there for manufacturing mattresses. The company failed, but the Henkels refused to be downhearted. Mr Henkel turned to cabinet-making, at which he worked until he was over 80.

Perhaps the secret of their long life was this refusal to be downhearted. They were always cheerful and fond of good company and their home was always gay and hospitable—in fat times and in lean.

They have reaped a harvest of good will.

# Where Dined the Great

A G W R restaurant car which has about it a thrilling historic atmosphere is No 9673, for during the war it was used as part of the special train for Mr Churchill, members of his Cabinet, General Eisenhower, and other British and American leaders. Four bronze plaques fitted to it record its wartime service.

Fortunate travellers in this car, which now forms part of the Torbay Express, will find there a personal link with these great men, for still in charge of the car is the official who looked after the famous Allied chiefs when they travelled in it in the war. He is Attendant Frank Brookman of Paignton, and he spoke to many of the wartime leaders when he was responsible for their comfort. Churchill, Eisenhower, Patten, Tedder, Montgomery, and the rest—he attended them all and has many of their signatures in his autograph book. Genial Mr Brookman, who is 44, was in the Army then but he was given this work because he was experienced in it.

The restaurant car now consists of first and third class dining saloons divided by the kitchen.

# REVIVING THE LACE INDUSTRY

THERE is difficulty in reviving Britain's famous lace industry because of the shortage of raw materials and labour. Yet the world demands for British lace are greater than before the war.

A working party appointed by the President of the Board of Trade has emphasised these points in a published report, recommending the setting-up in south-west Scotland—an area with a long tradition of skill in textile production—of a spinning-mill capable of producing 1000 tons of cotton yarn a year; also that a similar project by the plain net section of the industry should be considered.

Lace-making is an ancient industry, but it was not until the reign of Elizabeth that true lace-making really came into its own. It had been first developed at Venice, and French and Flemish refugees introduced it into Tudor England.

The first mechanical laces produced in this country were made on a knitting frame in 1764. In 1809 John Heathcoat perfected his bobbin-net machine. But it was the invention of a Nottingham mechanic named John Leavers in 1813 that laid the foundations of Britain's famous lace manufacture.

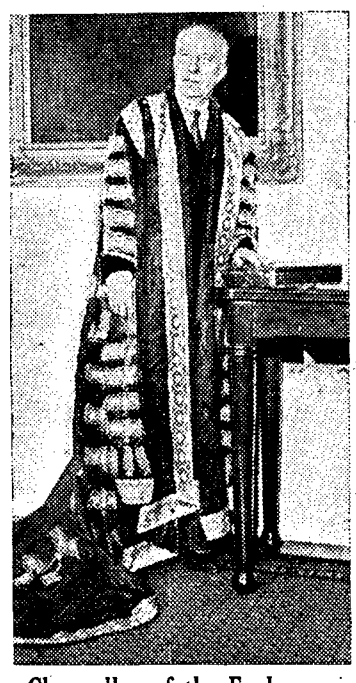
## Television Telephone

A CHICAGO firm recently claimed that they will have a pay-as-you-see television by telephone service ready within six months.

To get a clear figure the viewer will ask the telephone operator for "vision" and give the name of the station he wants to receive. He will then get the key frequencies by phone.

It will also be possible for the viewer to make ordinary telephone calls while he is getting the programme. The cost of the set at first will be the same as the average television set in the United States, about £75.

## YESTERDAY & TODAY



**Chancellor of the Exchequer**

One of the most important of His Majesty's Ministers, the keeper of the nation's purse-strings wears on special occasions this elaborately embroidered robe, symbol of his high and ancient office.

# The Editor's Table

## HOME MAKING

THE Government has taken an important step towards the further care of the thousands of British children who are without the most precious of all possessions—a real home life. The Home Office has appointed a Central Training Council in Child's Welfare which is to be responsible for the teaching of women prepared to give their time and talents to this vital task.

Consider the needs of the thousands of the nation's children without a home of their own. First of all they need a mother. Many noble women already give devoted service as foster-mothers to hundreds of British children. It is a grand and self-sacrificing work, but all who are engaged in it admit that it needs careful supervision so that the right children are fitted to the right homes, and that unhappy children are found happy homes. Wise and understanding women are needed to supervise the care of children placed in foster homes; wise and understanding women, too, are needed to train as House Mothers in children's homes.

THE recent investigation into the welfare of the nation's charges showed that far too many children are living in large institutions which, with the best will in the world on the part of those managing them, cannot be thought of as real homes. A real home means personal, individual affection, and it means security for the child with never any question about his place in it. It is Home!

To give children who are not born with the birthright of Home a chance to obtain it is now Britain's policy. How right this is, and how fine is the opportunity for those called on to put this policy into practice!

In the past this all-important mission of caring for Britain's "homeless" children has not always stirred the imagination of educated girls and women, and children have therefore not always had the best attention. Now is the opportunity for educated girls and women to come forward and get the training needed for this vital national service. A new profession is now open to them, and there can be no nobler.

TO care for children living in homes where they are happy because they are cared for, to create a loving guardianship over them and to have a partnership in their growing-up—that is a calling of nobility and service. It means a chance for hundreds of young women to bring new happiness into the lives of children deprived of it through no fault of their own. Volunteers have been called for, and the C N hopes to be able to record a glorious response.

## Look for the Silver Lining

IT is an old saying that Every cloud has a silver lining, and this is true of the dark cloud of economic crisis overshadowing our dear land today. Appropriately, therefore, has the National Savings Committee named the big campaign it is opening this month, Silver Lining Weeks.

These are to be held all over the country and they will be a call to our nation to realise the extreme importance of savings at the present time. For the Government has been obliged to restrict the amount of goods in the shops for us to buy, but it has not been able, at the same time, to restrict the amount of money in our pockets. Many people will be still eager to buy things, but the things to be bought will be scarcer, and this may mean a rise in prices. A rise in prices means demands for higher wages, and so grows the whole ruinous process we call inflation. But we can check it by putting our spare money into National Savings and encouraging others to do the same.

The National Savings Movement aims at achieving a target of £366,000,000 net savings by next April.

We can help to make these Silver Lining Weeks a success by joining a National Savings Group, of which today there are 250,000 with over 6,000,000 members.

### SEEK NOT FAME

IF thou wilt receive profit, read with humility, simplicity, and faith; and seek not at any time the fame of being learned. *Thomas à Kempis*

### Compensation

HEAVEN gives our years of fading strength
Indemnifying fleetness;
And those of youth, a seeming length
Proportioned to their sweetness.
*Thomas Campbell*

## Under the E

A MAN says most of his property is covered by insurance. If it is lost it may not be recovered.

⊡

*HALF the secret of horse-riding is in your horse. The other half is on it.*

⊡

OUR airmen deserve to be praised up to the skies. They would rather go by plane.

⊡

*HIKERS have gone for a walking tour inside the Arctic Circle. The project would leave some people cold.*

⊡



*BASS singers are popular. Go down well.*

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## THINGS SAID

BRITAIN has mortgaged her future to serve mankind.
*The Prime Minister of New Zealand*

THE harder we work the more we need suitable recreation.
*Minister of Town and Country Planning*

BUY more savings certificates, more defence bonds, put more money in the savings banks. This great movement was never more necessary than now.
*The Chancellor of the Exchequer*

THE only path to safety is to liberate the energies and genius of the nation and let them have their full fruition.
*Winston Churchill*

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S policy of disarmament and of sowing the seeds of democratic reform in Japan has been more successful than is generally imagined.
*Dr Evatt of Australia*

## Scientists and Children's Films

IT is indeed encouraging to know that British scientists are interesting themselves in the important part cinema films can play in the lives of our young people. A feature of the programme of the British Association's meetings at Dundee is an exhibition of films for children produced by Miss Mary Field of G B Instructional Children's Film Department; and members of the Association have just met in the Y M C A buildings to discuss with Miss Field the use of films in the education of children.

Films have enormous potential power for good and for evil, and those now being produced for boys and girls, whether for their instruction or amusement, cannot fail to benefit from advice and criticism by experts in all branches of knowledge and human understanding.

## Moaning Minnie

EIGHT years ago this week, on Sunday, September 3, 1939, Mr Chamberlain made his dramatic radio announcement that we were at war with Germany. Hardly had he finished speaking when the sirens began their dreadful wailing.

In nearly six years of war we became the slaves of the siren, it ruled our everyday lives; and it was hoped that we had heard the last of its wailing notes when the Cease Fire sounded in Europe on May 8, 1945.

Bad things die hard, however, and even today the siren's wail is heard in many places as a fire alarm. We were on a South Coast beach not so long ago, when the quiet of a perfect summer's afternoon was thus rudely destroyed, and it was plain to see that many holiday-makers were disturbed as by the recollection of a nightmare.

Must the siren's ugly wail remain with us always? Surely it is among those things that are best forgotten?

## FIELDS OF FOOD

AS we pass through the country lanes during these late summer days, we see field after field of golden sheaves.

How precious today are these bundles of homegrown cereals, and how they bear witness to the ceaseless industry of all who laboured from the first hour of tillage to the last hour of the gathering!

This year's harvest, alas, will not be up to the average, which is not surprising considering the long-delayed start in ploughing and sowing. Curiously enough, despite the long, severe winter, some autumn-sown oats have done better than those sown in the spring.

The farmers, together with the coal-miners, are our chief key men. When we see the fruits of their work against great odds, let us give them a thought and a "Thank you." Better still, let us give them a helping hand with their harvests before they close down in October. They need all the help we can possibly give.

## September Weatherlore

AS September, so the coming March.

CLEAR autumn, windy winter; Warm autumn, long winter.

IF rooks stay at home, or return in the middle of the day, it will rain; if they go far abroad, it will be fine.

IF leaves show their undersides, Be very sure that rain betides.

IF acorns abound in September, Snow will be deep in December.

*JUST AN IDEA*

*As the Chinese proverb says, If people take no care for the future they will soon have to sorrow for the present.*

## ditor's Table

**PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW**

**If a heated argument warms one up**



A MAN has been on the pay roll of a certain firm for eighty years. And prevented them from keeping it up to date.

⊡

*ELECTRICAL workers are to be paid double time if they work on certain days. They would prefer double money.*

⊡

A TYPIST says she is always making mistakes. Her biggest one was when she became a typist.

⊡

*FANCY cakes use up precious B Us, says a mother. Not if they are entirely fancy.*

⊡

EARLY-SOWN cabbages may bolt. Better put a collar and chain on them.

## AN OLD PLAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

THE Young Vic, a company of professional actors presenting plays for young people, and working under the auspices of the Old Vic, is visiting several towns this autumn to present two plays: The Shoemakers' Holiday, by Thomas Dekker, and Noah, by André Obey, of which the English text is by Arthur Wilmur.

Thomas Dekker, a Londoner, was a contemporary of Shakespeare. He published The Shoemakers' Holiday in 1600. It is a racy comedy about a nobly-born soldier who is so deeply in love with the daughter of the Lord Mayor of London that he leaves an important military command in the French war to come and work for a London shoemaker, as a Dutch-speaking journeyman, in order to have the chance of seeking the fair young lady's hand.

The Young Vic Company, between September 29 and December 16, are visiting Norwich, Slough, Huddersfield, Barnsley, Worcester, Kidderminster, London, Croydon, and Reading. After December they are to present The Snow Queen, after Hans Andersen's famous fairy tale.

## Panama Al



Taking the temperature of Panama Al, a young alligator at the Bristol Zoo, presents no problem now; but no one will envy his keeper the task when Al is fully grown.

## The Eskimo's Inquire Within

TO replace supplies for the northern Baffin Island settlements in the Arctic which were lost when the supply ship Nascopie went ashore not long ago, another ship, the North Pioneer, has been loaded with food, fuel, clothing, and medical supplies and sent from Montreal by the Canadian Government and the Hudson's Bay Company.

In its cargo are copies of a book called The Book of Wisdom for Eskimos. This is the first book of its kind ever published. It is printed in Eskimo syllabic script and contains much advice about family hygiene, the care of the sick, and infant welfare. It explains the Government's family allowance scheme, and there is also a message about the economic side of the Eskimos' life, dealing with such matters as the conservation of wild animals, birds, and fish, and the proper care of those objects that are essential to the Eskimos' way of life, their rifles, boats, and hunting and fishing equipment.

# A Modern Christian Martyr

JUST one hundred years ago on September 3, a boy was born at Hurstpierpoint in Sussex who was destined to have his name inscribed on the golden scroll of Christians who have laid down their lives while spreading their faith in foreign fields. He was James Hannington, bravest of the brave.

James Hannington went into his father's merchant business when he was 15, but he had no heart for it and at 21 went to Oxford to be educated for the Church. He was ordained when he was 27 and began his religious work as curate of Martinhoe in Devon. Later he ministered in the church built by his father in his own native Hurstpierpoint.

He first went to Africa in 1882, in command of the Church Missionary Society's expedition to Uganda. Later he became the first Bishop of Equatorial Africa, and his intrepid adventures in the region of the Great Lakes helped to lay the foundation of many Christian enterprises in that part of Africa.

His long journeys on foot in Central Africa brought him into close contact with the people. With them he always showed justice and fearlessness. On one occasion, after a long palaver, Hannington ordered that the gifts he had given should be taken away and then walked to his tent. The spears came out, and the men marshalled themselves in formation for spearing. But in the tent doorway Hannington, fearlessly resolute, remained calm until they agreed to modify their extravagant demands.

Hannington's famous encounter with a rhinoceros is as celebrated as Livingstone's adventure with the lion. He crept within twenty yards of the animal, whose meat he wanted to feed his caravan, and then saw it turn suddenly on him. "Fire!" cried his attendant to him. "No, wait," said the bishop. Kneeling in front of the beast, Hannington could feel its short, deep breaths. With a snort the animal reared, and Hannington jumped into the air at the same time and fired point-blank to gain his prize.

His last fierce encounter was with the Lubwa, the ruler of Usogu, who insolently demanded ten guns and three barrels of powder. Hannington refused, whereupon he and his men were surrounded by more than a thousand wild tribesmen. Hannington himself was seized and confined to a hut. Facing the old savage chieftain on the last day of his life Hannington wrote that he felt like springing at his throat, but he restrained himself by reading the passage from St Matthew's Gospel which begins, "Love your enemies."

Two armed men stood guard over him, and on October 28, 1885, he was led out to an open space outside the chief's village. There he and his men were surrounded by men with spears poised. Hannington drew himself up and told the king that he died for Uganda. They hesitated to spear him, and Hannington pointed to his gun which lay at his side. A man fired, and Hannington fell.

Thus ended the life of James Hannington, the merry-hearted, fearless soul who at school had been known as "Mad Jim." But his work went on; within a few months of the news of his martyrdom reaching England 50 men volunteered to continue it, and his name remains an inspiration to all who love and serve Africa.

## Awheel to the North

YOUNG George Cadney, of Islington, London, is back home again after having made a journey which he will not easily forget. With his father, this 13-year-old London schoolboy cycled on a tandem to John o' Groats and back, a distance of 1372 miles. The whole journey took three weeks and four days.

John o' Groats overlooks the Pentland Firth which separates Scotland from the Orkneys, and is regarded as the most northerly part of our mainland. It was so named from a famous house which was erected there by a Dutchman named Groot, or Groat, about the year 1600.



**THIS ENGLAND** Sunninghill Park, Berks, the future home of Princess Elizabeth and Lieut Mountbatten

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# The Man With Magic Fingers

## *THE STORY OF "MR ARSENAL"*

HERE is the story of the man who is now manager of one of the greatest football clubs in the world—a story of courage and fortitude.

Twenty-nine years ago, when he was 20, a young man named Tom Whittaker joined the Arsenal club as a player. Making considerable progress, he was chosen to tour South Africa with a Football Association team. In an early match in the Union, however, he was badly injured, and on returning to this country heard the dread words from the doctor: "You will never play again!"

Undismayed, Tom Whittaker decided to adopt the training profession, and a year later he accepted the post of assistant trainer to the Arsenal club. Within a few years he was appointed senior trainer, and then the war broke out and he volunteered for service in the R A F.

### Rapid Promotion

He reached the rank of Squadron-Leader and was given the M B E in connection with the D-Day landings. Demobbed in 1945, he returned to Highbury, and was appointed assistant-manager to the Arsenal club. Then, at the end of last season, he was promoted to the post of manager.

During his days as Arsenal's trainer, Tom Whittaker became known as "the man with the magic fingers," for he had an amazing way with him, and many well-known athletes and sportsmen were restored to full physical fitness through his efforts. Fred Perry might never have gained the world's lawn tennis championships and helped to gain the Davis Cup for Great Britain but for Tom Whittaker's wonderful knowledge of the treatment of injuries.

Tom Whittaker, who can truly be termed "Mr Arsenal," has reached his position through his own initiative and courage.

## WHO WAS HE? — Picture-Story of a Bible King




# BEATING SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

THERE are high hopes for the future happiness of man, according to the presidential address by Sir Henry Dale, O M, to the British Association at Dundee the other day—that is, if man heeds the warning.

Sir Henry's subject was Science in Peace and War, and he began by outlining how war for its own purposes speeded up the results to be obtained from scientific knowledge and research.

How, for example, radar and radiolocation so quickly had flowered into sudden activity; how headlong, too, was the progress in aeronautics, in gas turbine engines, in jet propulsion, in aircraft design—especially to make possible stratosphere flights in pressure cabins. These developments now serve peace. Even the destroying rocket is now being converted to peaceful purpose by employing rockets of extreme range to obtain knowledge of the stratosphere far beyond reach of scientific exploration otherwise.

Consider also penicillin, declared Sir Henry, which, when discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1929, was just an item of scientific interest, and so remained for ten years, till the needs of war and war wounds woke the fact of its existence into urgent appreciation of its value: and then Sir Howard Florey took penicillin down from the shelf, and he and his colleagues brought it into practical use, till now it is manufactured on so large a scale that we can buy it at the chemist's. Penicillin is now being developed in many forms, and we are coming nearer a knowledge of its structure.

Then again there is malaria, the curse of the tropics. We knew nearly all there was to know about its origin and spread before the beginning of the century, but really nothing about its cure beyond the use of cinchona (quinine). Then early in the war, the Japanese seized nearly all the available supplies, and there was nothing to be done except to substitute for cinchona two artificial drugs: atabrine and mepacrine. They were German and not too good; but then, because we had to so do, we in Britain discovered paludrine, which is better than anything.

Still one more remedy, which Sir Henry Dale mentioned last probably because it is still being examined and he is one of the few who know much about it. It is an artificial drug with a chemical name of 40 letters, but shortened for use to D F P. It was examined particularly in the war because it might play an important part in altering the transmission of nervous effects which arise in the strain of war. But it may now prove of high value to the peacetime physician and surgeon. Apart from this unusual example war has poisons that now can be used medically instead of murderously.

But what, Sir Henry Dale would ask, is the lasting value to mankind if these or other products of accelerated research confer material advantages to man and leave the spiritual end unsought and unfelt? There may be the gladness of collaboration, there may be the joy of research for its own sake, there may be triumphant end of both in the atomic bomb. But do we want that, for the atomic bomb is not the last word, and science itself must warn us of the danger of such a policy. Science will destroy itself unless it stands firmly on a purpose of seeking peace and ensuing it.

## Repairs While You Wait

A NOVEL type of business has been set up by Mr Norman Duffy, a 22-year-old ex-aircraft fitter. With a motor-cycle almost as old as himself, and an old orange box, he has started a tiny travelling garage.

Each day he travels along the Wigan-Blackpool road watching for motor-cyclists in trouble. With his box of tools, spare petrol and oil, he can do repairs on the spot, thus saving motorists much inconvenience.

On his first day out Mr Duffy was able to help twenty people, and he has been busy every day since then. He feels that it is worth a prolonged trial, for he is his own boss and it is work which appeals to him.

# The Fivepenny Fertiliser

## *A LITTLE CREATURE WITH A BIG NAME*

NEW ZEALAND farmers are singing the praises of a worm, imported from Britain, which they call "for short," A. Caliginosa—its full name is *Allolobophora Caliginosa*. With a name like that the worm should be capable of accomplishing great things, and from all accounts it certainly is.

For it is claimed that A. Caliginosa is tilling the soil in a way transcending man's efforts. It is said that 7,000,000 of these worms wriggling around in an acre of land will bring to the surface from 80 to 360 tons of soil each year. A. Caliginosa's worm-casts contain 40 per cent more humus than was there before, 400 per cent more nitrogen, 600 per cent more available phosphate, 1000 per cent more available potash, and 200 per cent more available magnesium. The worm indeed is a burrowing chemical factory manufacturing in his body rich fertilisers for the soil. Farmers are paying as much as ten shillings for a piece of earth containing 24 worms—fivepence each worm—and finding it well worth while.

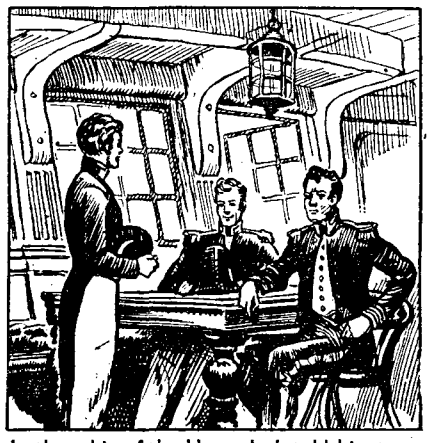
### A Welcome Immigrant

Farmers in the hill country of New Zealand had been worried about the deterioration of their pasture land. They would burn off the natural bush growing over such land and plant grass seed, but the results were often disappointing, the pastures declined, and the land could no longer be used for grazing.

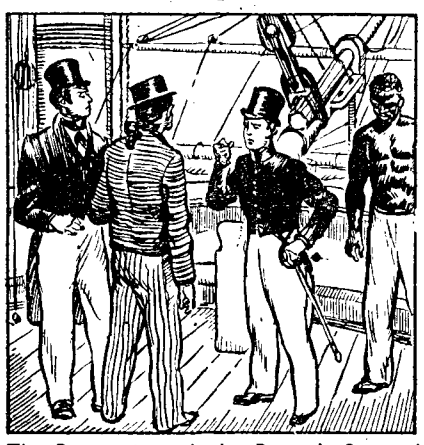
Now, however, in this most welcome immigrant from Britain, they believe they have found what is necessary to keep such land in "good heart," and those who have made use of the services of this little "new chum" tell of earlier fattening of stock and of considerably fewer stock losses.

"You little worm!" is no longer a term of reproach in New Zealand.

## *MR MIDSHIPMAN EASY—Captain Marryat's Great Story of the Sea, Told in Pictures*



In the cabin of the Harpy Jack told his story. As his arrival with the Carmen had enabled the Harpy to capture the Spanish warship, he was forgiven for previously leaving the Harpy without permission. He pleaded for his men, who had fought valiantly, and they also were forgiven. The Harpy sailed for Malta, where Jack got into another scrape.



The Boatswain and the Purser's Steward sneered at "Equality" Jack because he talked to Mesty the Negro, and Jack impulsively challenged them both to a duel. Pompous Mr Tallboys, the Gunner, decided that the duel must be a three-cornered one and Jack's second, Gascoigne, another middy, sensing fun, agreed to this absurd arrangement.



In a secluded spot ashore Mr Tallboys explained that Jack was to fire at the Boatswain, who was to fire at the Steward, who was to fire at Jack. The Steward protested, but Tallboys insisted and placed them. "Fire!" he ordered. The Boatswain's bullet hit the seat of the Steward's trousers, Jack was unhurt, the Boatswain's face was grazed.



Fearing they would be imprisoned on board for their part in this duel, Jack and Gascoigne decided to take a trip to Sicily, returning before the Harpy left Malta. They sailed with the Sicilian skipper of a fruit boat. Jack unwisely let the man see a handful of golden doubloons. That night, Gascoigne saw the skipper and his men, with drawn knives, creeping stealthily towards them.

***Can the truant middies save themselves? See next week's instalment of this splendid story***

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## Old Family Feuds

*The Bell of the Four Evangelists, by Violet Needham (Collins, 8s 6d).*

WHEN 12-year-old Penelope Merivale first gets an invitation to spend a holiday in the country with her father's starchy cousin Tabitha she is not at all keen; then she has a "hunch" that it might be rather interesting. Subsequent events prove her right, for she soon stumbles upon an old family mystery—mystery linked with a little model of a bell of an ancient ruined castle, and some very queer happenings. A thrilling story, this, and not easy to put down unfinished.

## On a Favourite Hobby

*Stamp Collecting, by Stanley Phillips (Sampson Low, 10s 6d).*

HERE is a new and handsome edition of a practical and authoritative guide to one of the most popular of all hobbies. A complete revision, and containing a new chapter on the stamps of the Second World War, it is finely illustrated and indexed.

## The Iron Road

*The World's Railways and How They Work (Odhams, 8s 6d).*

HERE is a book that will fascinate boys of all ages—and most girls, too. It tells the story of our own railways and how a railway works; there is a chapter on triumphs of railway engineering; and others on railways in various lands—among the Alps of Switzerland and the mountains and lakes of Scandinavia, across the desert of Australia, in India, and so on. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs, explanatory diagrams, and maps.

## Girls at School

*Pat at the Helm, by Phyllis Matthewman (C. & J. Temple, 7s 6d).*

ALL girls who revel in a school story will love this book. And all who have read the author's earlier stories of Daneswood, the lovely Tudor house converted into a school, will be delighted to meet again those devoted friends Pat Leigh, Felicity Graham (better known as Rusty), and all the rest, as lively a crowd as ever.

## A Great Artist

*Vincent Van Gogh, by W. Muensterberger (Falcon Press, 21s).*

ADMIRERS of the work of this Dutch artist, whose subjects were so often inspired by Millet and whose sensitive colouring is in a world of its own, will rejoice in this series of Van Gogh's lesser-known drawings and paintings. They will appreciate too Dr Muensterberger's sympathetic handling of the painter's tragic life-story.

## Other Books Received

HALF-HOURS With Heroes, by Frederick Coutts (Collins, 2s).

Lenin and the Russian Revolution, by Christopher Hill (English Universities Press, 5s).

The World We Live In, by Vivyen Bremner (SPCK, 4s).

Treasure for the Taking, by Anne T. Eaton (Harrap, 12s 6d).

The Children of Primrose Lane, by Noel Streatfeild (Collins, 8s 6d).

# Tracing the Flight of the Birds

THE second annual moving-time for the birds in our part of the world has arrived; the swifts have already departed, and other migrants are preparing for their long journeys to warmer and more plentiful feeding grounds.

The return of our summer visitors to their winter quarters in the south which takes place in late summer and autumn, and the influx of migrants from the north which starts about the same time, will entail considerable work and activity at the bird-ringing stations in the various Field Study Centres which are now flourishing in many parts of Great Britain. There are centres at such widely separated places as Dale Fort in Pembrokeshire, Fair Isle and the Isle of May in Scotland, and Spurn Head in Yorkshire.

At these stations the birds are trapped, a light aluminium ring is placed on one of their legs, and they are immediately released. The number stamped on the ring, and the date of ringing, are forwarded to the British Museum, where a record is kept. When the bird is picked up injured or dead, or perchance trapped again, details of the place and date are sent to the British Museum, who add it to the record. By this means the wanderings and habits of the ringed birds are known, and the range of its species mapped.

The kittiwake—one of our prettier gulls—is a noted trans-Atlantic traveller. We have records of it from such places as Labrador, Newfoundland, Greenland, Davis Straits (near Baffin Island), Iceland, France, and Denmark—all of birds originally ringed in Great Britain. There is also the record of a kittiwake ringed near Murmansk, Russia, which later was reported from Newfoundland. The black-headed gull (the gull which is so often unrecognised because when we see most of it—in the winter—it does not wear its black, or, rather, dark chocolate-coloured cap, is another bird which crosses the Atlantic.

When the swallow arrives in April it attracts all eyes to its clean-cut flying. It looks like a bird which can fly long distances, and it certainly does. For it spends its summer in the south of Africa—when it is winter here—and travels north to us in our summer for its breeding season. Some swallows even nest in the north of Norway.

That is good long-distance travelling, but one of the finest performances of all is by the sooty shearwater which, in August, can be seen in small numbers off our coasts. It breeds in New Zealand and the neighbouring Pacific Islands during the summer there, then flies 10,000 miles to us in the North Atlantic for another summer here, returning to New Zealand each year in our autumn—thus dodging winter anywhere—a round trip of 20,000 miles.

## FOMALHAUT OF THE SOUTHERN FISH

SATURN is now coming into the early morning sky (writes the CN Astronomer) and may be seen in the dawn low down in the east just before 5 o'clock being the best time to seek him.

On September 12 the crescent Moon will appear a little way to the right of and above Saturn and so will be a guide to his whereabouts. Saturn's position will soon improve, and he and Mars will become the two brightest objects in the early morning sky.

An interesting feature will be the apparent approach of Mars to Saturn. At present Mars is in the south-east and a long way to the right of Saturn, and also at a much higher altitude, but by November they will pass one another. This will be an interesting spectacle as they will *appear* so close together. Just now Mars is about 167 million miles away, but Saturn is 911 million miles distant. Both are coming nearer to us and will soon become brighter.

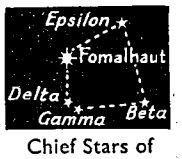
The evening sky in the south-east is now of peculiar interest with the marine and "watery" constellations of Autumn taking the place of those of Summer.

The two constellations of the Fishes are typical, Pisces, the Zodiac constellation, and Piscis Australis, the Southern Fish. Pisces, the Fishes, occupies the sky below and to the south-east of the great Square of Pegasus. There are no bright stars in Pisces and very few of particular interest apart from Alpha in Pisces, a third-magnitude star which may be found by drawing an imaginary line from Beta to Gamma in the great Square of Pegasus (see star-map in CN August 23), and continuing it until a star nearly as bright as Gamma is reached.

This star, also known as Al Rischa, meaning the Knot in Arabic, is curiously composed of two suns, one green and the other blue, and represents the knot in the two ribbons which tie these two imaginary Fishes together by their tails.

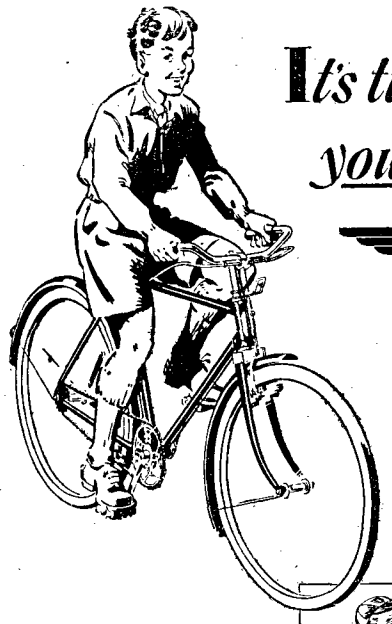
Piscis Australis is famous for possessing the grand first-magnitude star Fomalhaut. It is very far to the south, but may be seen for the next few weeks a little way above the southern horizon in the late evening.

If an imaginary line be drawn from Beta through Alpha in the Square of Pegasus and continued due south it will come to Fomalhaut.

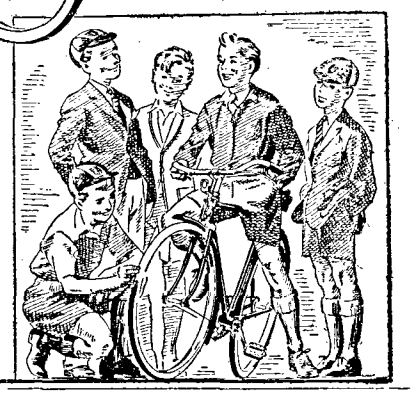


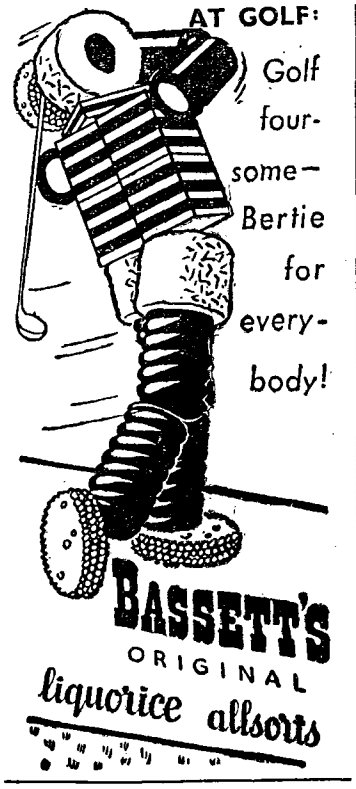
Chief Stars of Piscis Australis

Fomalhaut, pronounced Fo-mal-o, means Fish's Mouth in Arabic, the star being in that position and receiving the water from the Pot which Aquarius holds, thus symbolising the coming of the rainy season. The actual brilliance of Fomalhaut exceeds that of Sirius, but Fomalhaut is about 23½ light years' distant. That is some 1,487,300 times farther than our Sun, but Fomalhaut radiates about 40 times more light and is nearly twice the width of our Sun. G. F. M.



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# The Bran Tub

## HELP!

Uncle: "Sorry I can't take you into my office, old chap. I can't afford any extra help just now."

Nephew: "That's all right, uncle. I shouldn't be much help."

## Old Testament Characters

*Each line of the rhyme shown below contains the name of an Old Testament character.*

A bell chimed sweetly from the church
As Alice mused one summer day.
"Ah, absent one!" she softly sighed.
"How sad am I when you're away.
In very truth the birds seem dumb,
The garden plot has no appeal,
But evening's shades will soon prevail,
Its gentle light will soothe and heal."

*Answer next week*

## Tongue Twister

*Say this quickly six times:*

Six sullied soot shifters sharing soap.

## HIT AND MISS

The new golfer addressed the ball for a few minutes, then took a mighty swipe. The ball did not move.

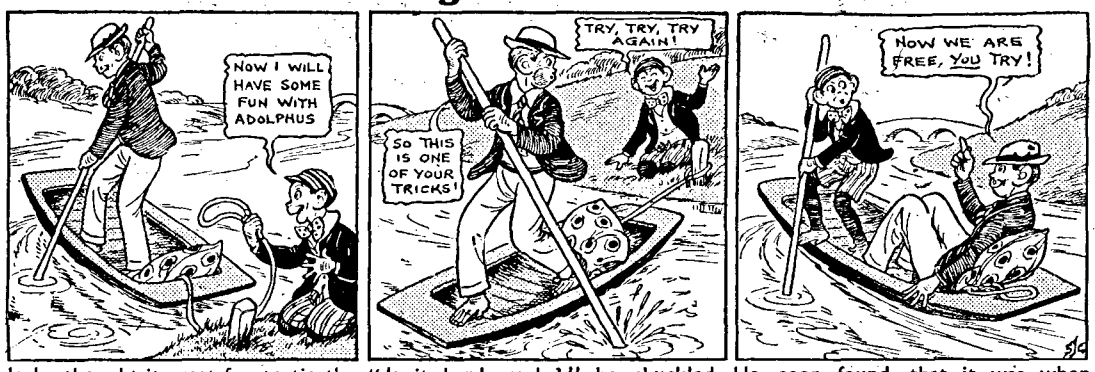
"I'm sure I hit something," he said.

"Yes, sir," replied the caddie, "you did. England!"

## Who Was He?

The man in the picture-story on page 6 was King David.

# Jacko Laughs Once Too Often




Jacko thought it great fun to tie the rope to a mooring post. "Is it hard work?" he chuckled, as Adolphus puffed and panted. He soon found that it was when Adolphus finally caught him.

## FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

**Intelligent Starlings.** In the meadow the cows browsed peacefully. A great many starlings were busily seeking food, running to and fro in the odd manner common to the species. It seemed to Don that wherever the cows went, the starlings were in close attendance.

"They have good reasons for following the cows," replied Farmer Gray in answer to Don's inquiries. "Cows when feeding tear up the grass by the roots. This brings to light many grubs and insects which the starlings promptly eat."

Birds are quick to learn the easiest ways to obtain their food.

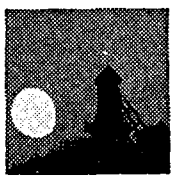
Starlings are useful birds, destroying many pests.

### *A Tasty Morsel*

*A winkle who winked at Torquay,*
*Went out for a stroll in the sea,*
*But he trod on the tail*
*Of a very large whale,*
*And the whale had a winkle for tea.*

## Other Worlds

In the evening Jupiter is low in the south-west. In the morning Saturn is in the east and Mars is in the south-east. The picture shows the moon at 10 p m on Wednesday, September 3.



## A Catch Question

Why should we go to bed after tea?

*Because when t is gone night is nigh.*

### *A DIFFICULT RHYME*

Window is not an easy word with which to find a rhyme, but here is a verse which gives a fairly successful one:

*Bold Robin Hood, that archer good,*
*Shot down fat buck and thin doe;*
*Rough storms withstood in thick greenwood,*
*Nor cared for door or window.*

## Long-Term Policy

The two fathers were discussing their respective sons.

"What's your boy going to be when he has finished his schooling?" asked Jones.

"An octogenarian, I should think," replied Brown.

## Same Direction

Jones: "I never clash with my boss."

Smith: "Oh really."

Jones: "No; he goes his way and I go his."

## A RELAY RACE

Divide the players into two teams and line these up at opposite ends of the room, each behind a chalk or tape line.

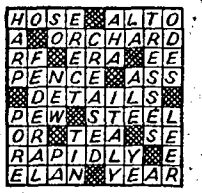
At an equal distance from these, in the centre of the room, chalk two small circles. Give to the leader of each team a shoehorn with which he must roll a table tennis ball along the ground from his line into his chalk circle, stop, and roll it back again, when the next one in the team takes over.

Have an umpire in the middle of the room to see that the ball actually enters the circle.

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

**Hidden Trees**

Ash, oak, elm, fir, plane, pear.




## —Bedtime Corner—

# The Money-Box

When Joan was eight, Uncle George gave her a money-box and a bright new half-crown to start the "Bank." She and Cyril bought savings stamps with their pocket-money every other week, so the new box was to help to save up for "something special."

Cyril's was a red pillar-box; Joan's was of polished wood, with a very secret way of opening, which Uncle George explained to her. The children were saving up for the Fair; there were always so many lovely sideshows and roundabouts and swings.

A week before this great event, Cyril returned from school, saying excitedly: "Billy Thompson has two rabbits to sell; I think there's just enough money in my box to buy one—wouldn't you like the other?"

Joan had always longed for a rabbit—and, forgetting about the Fair, she ran to ask Mother if she might buy one of Billy's. Mother said yes, so the children fetched their money-boxes.

Cyril's sixpences and pennies came tumbling out quite easily, but the wooden box would not open, whichever way they tried—for Joan had quite forgotten the secret! So she had to give up the idea of a rabbit of her own. "You can share mine," said Cyril kindly.

When Uncle George returned, just in time for the Fair, he showed Joan again the secret of opening her "Bank," and she was glad she had the bright half-crown and several pennies to spend.

Cyril said he didn't mind having spent all his, because he loved his rabbit so much!

The children went to the Fair with Uncle George, and somehow both of them had ever so many rides on the merry-go-round, and *somehow* —a dear little brown rabbit, just like Cyril's, was waiting in the hutch for Joan next morning!



# Children's Hour

***B B C programmes from Wednesday, September 3, to Tuesday, September 9.***

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Horse Who Didn't Like Sundays—a story; Piano—Ronald Gourley. 5.35 London Statues—a talk. *N. Ireland,* 5.0 Castles of Ireland—Dunluce Castle; Humour in Music (Part 1). *North,* 5.0 Holidays Abroad; History Quiz. *Scottish,* 5.0 Scottish Children's Magazine.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Four Plus Bunkle (Part 1). *Welsh,* 5.0 Children's hour in Welsh. 5.30 Junior Radio Record.

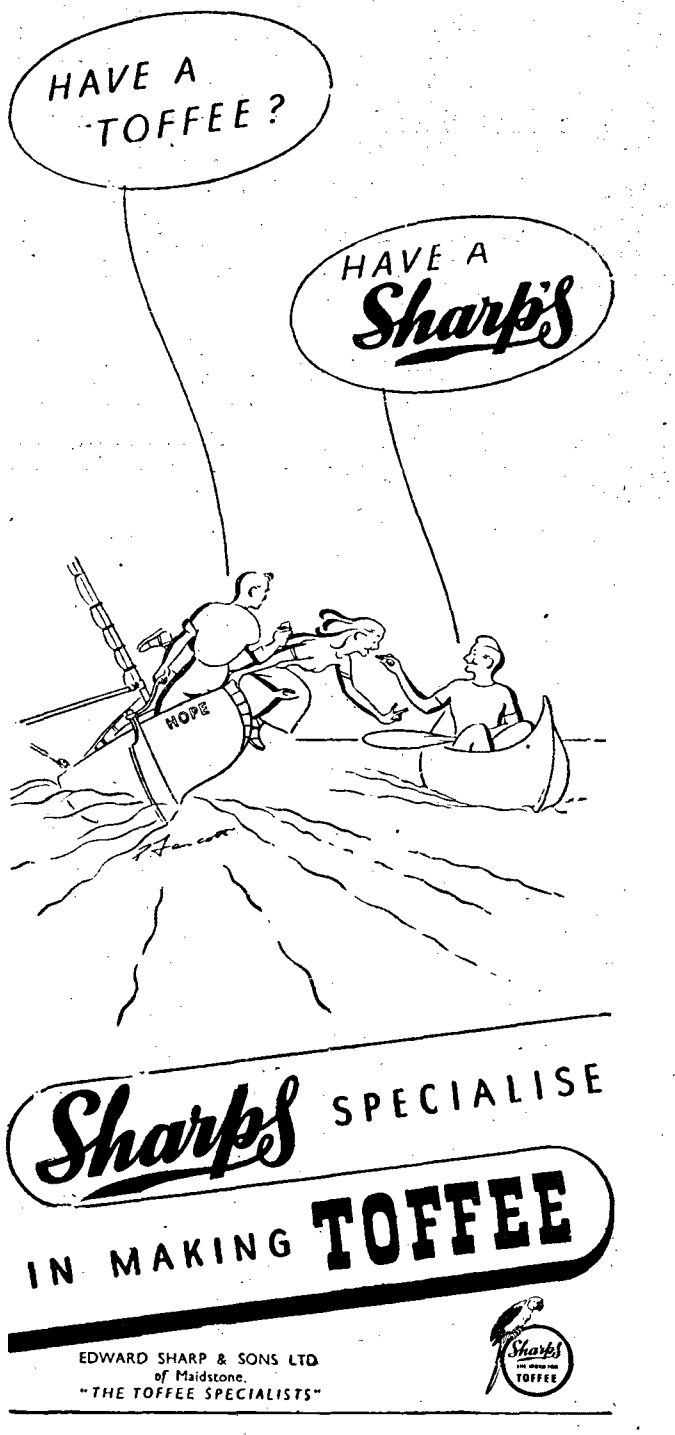
FRIDAY, 5.0 Heidi Grows Up (Part 4); A Tusker story.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety. *Scottish,* 5.0 Tom, Dick, and Harry (2); Mr Simister is Unlucky (2).

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Credit to the Family—a story; Glasgow Orpheus Choir; A talk. *N. Ireland,* 5.0 Story; Nature Discussion; Songs; Violin Solos.

MONDAY, 5.0 The King's Ankus, by Rudyard Kipling. 5.40 Film Review.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Kitten who Wanted to be White; Songs; The Well-Bred Calendar—a story. 5.40 A talk by the Sports Coach. *Midland,* 5.0 The Adventures of Monk and Bun (6); Piano; Children of Other Lands—Spain; A Bobby Brewster story.




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